

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00311 141900Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10

SSM-05 /092 W

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R 141645Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1326

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0311

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 14

1. COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS IN LEBANON CONTINUED GET TOP BILLING IN SYRIAN MEDIA. PRESS HEADLINED: "HEAVY ARMS COLLECTION PROCESS IN LEBANON SUCCESSFUL. COLLECTION OF LIGHT ARMS IS THE NEXT SECURITY STAGE." CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ALSO GIVEN TO U.S. INTENTIONS TOWARD M.E. TISHRIIN BANNERED: "WASHINGTON MOVES QUICKLY IN M.E. BEFORE WALDHEIM'S VISIT. NUMEROUS MEETINGS BETWEEN CARTER AND LEADERS CONCERNED WITH M.E. SITUATION."

2. MEDIA GAVE WIDE ATTENTION TO COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00311 141900Z

DIRGEN OF LEBANESE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WHICH REPORTED THAT BULK OF PLO REGULAR FORCES HAD LEFT LEBANON AND THAT LISTS OF WEAPONS COLLECTED HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO ADF. COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT ADF WOULD USE FORCE TO CONFISCATE HEAVY WEAPONS STILL OUTSIDE OF COLLECTION AREAS. ARTICLES WENT ON TO REPORT THAT PARLIAMENTARY AND POLITICAL CIRCLES IN LEBANON WERE PLEASED WITH

COLLECTION EFFORTS AND WERE STRESSING NEED TO COLLECT LIGHT WEAPONS IN THE NEXT STAGE. "INFORMED SOURCES" EXPECTED THAT DIFFERENT PARTIES WOULD HAND IN THEIR WEAPONS BY THEMSELVES UNDER ADF SUPERVISION WHICH WOULD THEN PROTECT STORAGE AREAS. DEPUTY SPEAKER MICHAEL SASSIN, LEBANESE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, QUOTED SAYING THAT HE HAS MADE STUDY OF HOW LIGHT WEAPONS COULD BE COLLECTED AND WILL BE PRESENTING REPORT TO OFFICIALS SHORTLY. GEMAYEL REPORTEDLY THANKED ADF FOR ITS EFFORTS. SOUTH YEMENI TROOPS DEPARTED ADEN JANUARY 13 TO JOIN ADF, ACCORDING TO PRESS. MUTFI HASAN KHALID WILL VISIT DAMASCUS NEXT WEEK.

3. PRESS CONTINUED TO GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO EGYPT. POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN CAIRO REPORTED AS ATTACHING GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO VISIT SINCE IT COMES AT IMPORTANT STAGE OF JOINT ARAB ACTION. ARTICLE STATED TWO LEADERS WOULD DISCUSS FURTHERING RELATIONS OF SOLIDARITY AMONG THE CONFRONTATION STATES IN ADDITION TO COMING MOVES FOR SOLVING M.E. CRISIS AT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

4. EDITORIAL OPINION CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON SYRIAN EFFORTS IN LEBANON. EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH REMINDED READERS THAT ASAD USED TO TELL HIS GUESTS "I WILL RESCUE LEBANON EVEN IF IT COSTS ME A WAR WITH ISRAEL. EDITORIAL EXTOLLED ASAD'S ACTIONS AND CLAIMED THAT FEW THOUGHT THAT HIS OBJECTIVES COULD EVER BE REACHED. OTHER EDITORIALS POINTED TO SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO COLLECT HEAVY WEAPONS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 00311 141900Z

DEPARTURE OF PLO REGULAR FORCES AS INDICATION THAT LEBANESE GOVT. HAD GONE A LONG WAY TOWARDS ENDING AFTER-EFFECTS OF CIVIL WAR.

5. TISHRIIN CONTINUED EDITORIAL CAMPAIGN PROMOTING CASE FOR ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA MEPC. IT ASKED RHETORICALLY. "WHAT WOULD WE LOSE IF WE GO TO GENEVA? ANSWERED THAT AS LONG AS ARABS REFUSE ACCEPT DICTATED SURRENDER AND PRESERVE THEIR MILITARY OPTION, THEY WOULD NOT BE CAPITULATING BUT UNDERTAKING EFFORT CONSISTENT WITH MOTTO THAT "WHAT WAS TAKEN WITH FORCE CAN ONLY BE RECOVERED BY FORCE." IN CONCLUSION IT DECLARED SYRIA UNAFRAID TO CONFRONT THE ENEMY IN ALL FIELDS INCLUDING THE POLITICAL ONE.

6. AFTER STEADY CRITICISM OF IRAQI REGIME IN AFTERMATH OF EXECUTION OF ALLEGEDLY IRAQI-BACKED SYRIAN SABOTEURS AND INAUGURATION OF THE IRAQI-TURKISH OIL PIPELINE, MEDIA HAVE MAINTAINED SILENCE ON SUBJECT FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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